

REPORT

Of the Committee on the Public Buildings, in relation to the operations on said buildings during the last year, and to their present state.

FEBRUARY 12, 1824.

Accompanied by a bill making appropriations for the public buildings.

The Committee on the Public Buildings make the following REPORT:

The Committee have examined the work which has been done on the centre building of the Capitol, during the year preceding, and find that as much progress has been made towards its completion, as was proposed in the estimate of the Architect.

The Committee have also examined the work done on the South Portico of the President's House. All here has not been accomplished which was contemplated. Two flights of steps, to ascend from the surface level to the principal floor, with the railing on the front of this floor, are still wanting. The reasons assigned for this deficiency, are: "The frequent rains, which, rendering the road impassable for weeks together, between the quarries and the landing, rendered it impracticable to finish the work the last year." To the Committee these reasons are satisfactory.

The Committee have likewise cast their eye on the improvements made in the Capitol square the last season. They are satisfied that the money appropriated for this purpose, has been judiciously and economically expended; though, from the smallness of the sum, not much of utility or ornament could be effected.

By the report of the Commissioner, dated December, 1823, it appears that the expenditures on the above objects, have, in no instance, exceeded the appropriations. Upon a full survey of the subject, the Committee find reasons to be highly gratified with the ability, promptitude, and faithfulness, displayed by the Commissioner in the management of the public interests committed to his trust. They are also disposed to award due praise to the Architects, not only for their assiduity and zeal in prosecuting the work on the public edifices; but, also, for the style of the workmanship—uniting ornament with strength, and giving solidity to grandeur.

The Committee have annexed the Architect's estimate of a sum necessary to carry on the work proposed to be done on the centre building of the Capitol the present year. This estimate proposes to finish the interior of the building, and to raise the columns of the Portico, with the architraves, together with some improvements in the Capitol square.

Subjoined, also, is an estimate of a sum required to erect a north Portico to the house occupied by the President. The Committee deem it proper here to state, for the intelligence and satisfaction of this House, that they have bestowed due attention on the subject, and are of the opinion that the Portico would be both a useful and ornamental appendage, connecting, in a high degree, private convenience with public accommodation. They are also of the opinion that, as the state of the public Treasury will justify the expenditure, the soundest maxims of national economy require that the public buildings, with all convenient expedition, should be carried to that state of perfection which, according to the original design, was contemplated. Subjoined, likewise, are estimates of the expense for making repairs and improvements in the room of the Supreme Court, in the Capitol, and for paving a foot-walk in front of the public grounds and open spaces between the Capitol and Navy Office, with the observations of the Commissioner thereon.

In the opinion of the Committee, the convenience and utility of these improvements are too obvious to need further recommendation.

The Committee offer a bill, making appropriation for the several objects specified in their report.

ESTIMATE of the Expense of the work on the Capitol of the United States, for the year 1824.

It is contemplated to finish the interior of the building, and to raise the columns of the Portico, with the Architrave.

CARPENTER'S MATERIALS AND WORK.

500 feet of $\frac{3}{4}$ double worked doors, at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0 40	\$200
1248 do. backs, soffits and jambs for windows	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	374 40
960 do. angle beads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	57 60
1216 do. grounds and architraves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	364
1408 do. grounds, base and plinth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	352
1200 do. jambs and soffits for doors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	300
1728 do. pannel backs in rotundo, mahogany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	345 60
500 do. door frames	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	125
420 do. shutters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	126
20 window frames—setting and fixing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 00	40
4 windows in open courts, jambs and grounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 00	60
192 feet of window frames, with circular heads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	48
6 volutes, or scrolls, for principal stairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 00	120 00
4 do. for North Stairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 00	80
375 feet of mahogany rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	187 50
2904 of centering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	290
2 cisterns for water closets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		100
Stairs from the roof to interior of dome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		75
5 Carpenters employed, making moulds for Stone Cutters, and other jobs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	337 50	1,687 50
6000 feet of prime $\frac{3}{4}$ plank, reduced to $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	210
6000 do. do. $\frac{1}{2}$ do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	210

ESTIMATE—Continued.

2000	feet merchantable $\frac{5}{4}$ yellow pine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0 25	\$50
1000	do. do $\frac{2}{4}$ do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		17 50
1000	do. of best heart yellow pine scantling, 4 by 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		35
10,000	do. $\frac{4}{4}$ cuttings for scaffolds and centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	150
1000	do. $\frac{8}{4}$ cuttings for do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		17 50
1728	do. Mahogany for pannels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	345 60
10	Laborers for 6 months	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108 00	1,080 00
										<u>7,048 20</u>

STONE AND BRICK WORK.

East Portico, to consist of twenty-four columns and two pilasters.

882.2	tons Free Stone, in subplinths, bases, pilasters, capitals and entablature	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$9 00	\$7,939 20
	to the pediment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
24	do. Column Shafts, each of one stone, which measure 18.7 tons, to be delivered at the building, for	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	375 00	9,000 00
Work upon all the above, except cornice										8,814 11
Setting the above to the frieze, inclusive										4,828 00
Scaffolding, 2 strong shear poles										
	100 scaffold poles	-	-	-	200	-	-	-		
	3000 feet three inch plank	-	-	-	135	-	-	-		
	Spikes and Nails	-	-	-	20	-	-	-		
	2 6 inch falls of 60 fathoms	-	-	-	206	-	-	-		
										586 00
25 M.	Bricks, and work for backing freize and ashlar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	300 00
30	do. for flooring arcade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	360 00
										<u>31,827 31</u>

THIRD FLIGHT OF GREAT CENTRAL STAIRS.

49.3 tons Steps and half paces of Seneca Stone and architraves	-	-	\$0 15	\$738 46
Work on do. being a moulded Astragal risor, and the architrave with its mouldings	-	-		1,049 43
121.6 feet Free Stone in front of the corridor and colonnades	-	-	9	1,092 60
Work on the above	-	-		1,432 70
361.6 of circular Ashlar Stone work, and Stone	-	-	1 33	480 79
Setting the above	-	-		718 40
31,250 Brick work in arches	-	-	12	375 00
Brick paving, 31 yards	-	-		17 5
				<u>5,904 45</u>

NORTH BACK STAIRS, from first story to the roof.

19 tons Free Stone to the 2d flight,	-	-	9	\$171 00
Work on do.	-	-		460 00
Setting do.	-	-		97 00
16.1 do. Free Stone for 3d flight	-	-	9	144 60
Work on do.	-	-		406 45
Setting do.	-	-		97 00
14.10 do. Free Stone for 4th flight	-	-	9	132 00
Work on do.	-	-		373 60
Setting do.	-	-		97 00
				<u>1,978 65</u>

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ESTIMATE—Continued.

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SPIRAL STAIRS, to the South.

Four Flights of Steps, three of which are of Seneca Stone, and the last of Aquia Stone.

Workmanship on 85 Seneca steps, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 11 50	\$ 977 50
Do. 3 landings,	-	-	-	-	-		69
12 Tons Free Stone, for 25 steps and landing,	-	-	-	-	-	9	108
work on do.	-	-	-	-	-		201
setting the four flights,	-	-	-	-	-		350
							<hr/> 1,705 50

PAVING THE UPPER AND LOWER ROTUNDO, basement passages, &c.

The Upper Rotundo measures	-	-	-	-	-	7,000 feet.	
Lower do.	-	-	-	-	-	5,953	
Basement passages,	-	-	-	-	-	2,600	
Stair passages,	-	-	-	-	-	830	
Allowed for waste and contingencies,	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	

17,383

Quantity on hand,

5,500

11,383 at 46 cts. 5,466 18

Facing, rubbing, squaring, and laying,	-	-	-	-	-	12,724 f. at 54	6,870 96
squaring, and laying,	-	-	-	-	-	3,276 29	950 04
Landings to Spiral stairs, and Portico,	-	-	-	-	-	45.10 tons 15	686 50
Three Steps leading to the Rotundo, west, and 12 to the doors, from Arcade,	-	-	-	-	-	300 f. 60	180
Capping course, to the circle in centre of Rotundo, stone and work,	-	-	-	-	-	-	123
							<hr/> 14,276 68

L 60 7

Lime and sand, for setting the above work,	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	
Making moulds, templets, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	
Contingent expenses,	-	-	-	-	-	-	750	
								1,250
643 yards of brick paving in basement, at	-	-	-	-	-	75 cts.	481	25
8 Chimney pieces, and hearths, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$40	320	
10 Do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	20	200	
								1,001 25
								57,943 82

PLASTERING AND STUCCO WORK.

1,620 yards in ceiling of basement story, at	-	-	-	-	-	60 cts.	\$	972	
1,758 do. on walls of do.	-	-	-	-	-	50		879	
2,215 do. in lower Rotundo,	-	-	-	-	-	50		1,107	50
550 do. in great staircase,	-	-	-	-	-	50		275	
400 do. in north and south, do.	-	-	-	-	-	50		200	
1,744 feet of Impost moulding, in basement,	-	-	-	-	-	20		348	80
									3,782 30

IRON WORK, &c.

Iron band, and lead, in joints, to brace together the stone architrave of Portico,	-	-	-	-	-		\$	1,320	
Two cast iron bars, in great staircase, 600 lb. at	-	-	-	-	-	6 cts.		36	
2,000 lb. pig lead, for sash weights, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$8 per cwt.		160	
6,000 lbs. nails and brads, at	-	-	-	-	-	10 cts.		600	
20 best three bolt, iron rim, eight inch locks, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$3		60	

STATEMENT—Continued.

Sash brasses, pulleys, hinges, and screws,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	05
Ornamental iron work, to central stairs, platforms, and opening of Rotundo,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,537	20
Railing to north stairs, from floor to roof,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	605	60
								<u>4,386</u>	<u>85</u>

CARVING AND PAINTING.

Carving 14 large capitals, for Portico, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$260	\$3,640
Do. 2 do. pilaster, do.	-	-	-	-	-	160	320
Do. 8 smaller, for staircase,	-	-	-	-	-	65	520
Do. 10 pilaster, do.	-	-	-	-	-	12	120
Other carving, of mouldings and tablets,	-	-	-	-	-		2,000
4,000 yards of painting, of inside work,	-	-	-	-	-	20	800
1,500 do. do. on roofs,	-	-	-	-	-	20	300
Painting of iron railing round the square, 454 pannels,	-	-	-	-	-	35	158 90
Four large frames, for Historial paintings,	-	-	-	-	-	600	2,400
							<hr/> 10,258 90

GROUNDS, &c.

Improving and regulating grounds,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Horse and cart, removing timber and rubbish, one year, 300 days,	-	-	-	-	-	-	450
Two watchmen, in charge of the building and materials, one year,	-	-	-	-	-	-	700
For contingent, and unforeseen expenses,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,588 83
							<u>3,738 83</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Carpenter's materials and work,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 7,048 20
Stone and brick work,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,943 82
Plastering and Stucco work,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,782 30
Iron work, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,368 85
Carving, and Painting,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,258 90
Grounds, and contingencies,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,738 83

\$ 87,158 90

Proportion of the above for the building,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 86,000
For grounds, and painting the railing,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,158 90

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES BULFINCH,
Architect of Capitol of the United States.

JOSEPH ELGAR, Esq.
Commissioner of Public Buildings.

ESTIMATE for North Portico to the President's House.

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OF THE NORTH PORTICO.

To 159 $\frac{1}{3}$ tons of Free Stone	-	-	-	-	\$13 50	\$2,151 00
463 tons of large Free Stone Columns and Entablature	-	-	-	-	14 00	6,482 00
266 feet cube of Baltimore, Philadelphia, or New York Marble	-	-	-	-	2 75	731 50
665 feet work on Marble Steps, &c.	-	-	-	-	1 75	1,163 75
6,750 feet moulded work on Entablature, &c.	-	-	-	-	1 10	7,425 00
665 feet of Marble Paving in Squares	-	-	-	-	1 75	1,163 50
1,568 feet work on Plain Face	-	-	-	-	45	705 60
264 feet work on Plain Face Circular	-	-	-	-	60	158 40
Setting of Free Stone	-	-	-	-	-	2,300 00
Setting of Marble	-	-	-	-	-	240 00
Lead and Iron Bars	-	-	-	-	-	500 00
Cast Iron Truss	-	-	-	-	-	250 00
Foundation and Masonry	-	-	-	-	-	681 20
17,250 Bricks backing	-	-	-	-	15 00	258 75
						<u>\$24,210 70</u>
To 196 sheets of Copper Covering, 14 lbs. each, 2,744 lbs.	-	-	-	-	40 cts.	\$1,297 60
2,744 pounds of Copper Grooving and laying	-	-	-	-	20	548 80
2,640 Roofing and Boarding	-	-	-	-	15	396 00
1,575 feet of Ceiling	-	-	-	-	15	236 25
						<u>2,478 65</u>
Amount of North Portico	-	-	-	-		<u>\$26,689 35</u>

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ESTIMATE of the Expense of Materials and Labor, for repairs and improvements on the Room of the Supreme Court, in the Capitol; being indispensably necessary for the comfort and accommodation of the Court.

			Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
136	day's work of Carpenters, making alterations of seats, doors, and blinds to three large windows	- - - - -	a 100	136	00
12	do. of Bricklayers, cutting a new door way, laying new hearths, and setting stoves	- - - - -	137½	16	50
26	do. of Plasterers, whitening, and cleaning ceilings, &c.	- - - - -	137½	35	75
60	do. of Laborers, cleaning walls, attending on workmen	- - - - -	70	42	00
	Materials for different departments, as above	- - - - -		30	00
67	yards green blinds, painted three coats	- - - - -	50	33	50
300	do. white painting on walls, columns, &c.	- - - - -	20	60	00
	New carpeting, under the judges and lawyer's seats	- - - - -		231	75
	Upholsterer, for fitting and laying down carpets	- - - - -		23	77
	Blacksmith, for rods for curtains, stove pipes, &c.	- - - - -		10	18
	Additional stove pipe	- - - - -		17	12
				\$636	57

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES BULFINCH,

Architect of Capitol of U. States.

JOSEPH ELGAR, Esq.

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

February 10, 1824.

SIR: The Corporation of Washington City passed an ordinance, last year, directing the foot-way to be paved, on the North side of Pennsylvania Avenue, in front of all the building lots, where it had not theretofore been done, between the Capitol and Executive Offices. This ordinance will, no doubt, be carried into effect the present year; but the line of communication is intersected by several portions of public ground, and open spaces, over which the corporate authority is incomplete; and without the aid of Congress, the important object, of having a continued foot-way from the Capitol to the Public Offices, cannot be accomplished. These spaces are, as follows:

From the Circular road, West of the Capitol to 1st street,	385 feet
From 7th to 9th street,	649 do.
From 10th to 11th street,	227 do.
From 13th to 14th street,	581 do.
and from the Department of State to Department of the	
Navy, - - -	1,896 do.
Making altogether, - - -	3,738 feet.

The foot-way on the South side of the Capitol Square, constructed last summer, of the best materials and workmanship, cost one dollar and sixteen cents per foot. At the same rate, the above distance of 3,738 feet would amount to - - - - \$4,336 08
 4,375 cubic yards of filling up, at 15 cents per yard, 656 25
 \$4,992 33

Permit me then, to submit the expediency of an appropriation, as follows:

For making a foot-way in front of the public grounds and open spaces, between the Capitol and Navy Office, five thousand dollars.

I have the honor to remain,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

J. ELGAR.

Hon. JOSHUA CUSHMAN,

Chairman, &c. &c. &c.